Gideon Levy's reaction when he learned he was 100% European

The first revelation, and the most important of all, struck me like a bolt of lightning. Unequivocally, definitively, no words spared. A huge headline across the full width of the screen:

Gideon, your DNA suggests that 100% of your origin is Jewish-Ashkenazi.

In other words, a 100 percent racially pure Ashkenazi Jew. An end to all doubts. But again, astonishingly, there's not a trace of the Land of Israel in my ancestors' journeys in the past 275,000 years. They never saw it, not even through binoculars. My parents and my grandparents had no previous connection with Palestine. It's the definite end of my Zionism. My deep connection with the Land of Israel faded in an instant and became nonexistent. Justice was with the Palestinians, and BDS will triumph. tinyurl.com/Gideon-Levy-DNA-Khazarian

Ben Gurion

It is because we are the children of the Jewish people and it is the only homeland of the Jewish people that we have rights in this country. We are returning to Palestine.

But when Great Britain and all other European Powers recognized the right of the Jewish people as a whole to return to their country and to reconstitute their National Home here,

It is related to two things, to the need of the Jewish people in the world, how many Jews are in need to return to Palestine, and it is related to the objective possibilities of Palestine. As long g there is a Jew in the world who must come back and is willing to come back and as long as a place can be made for him without displacing one of those already here, he can come here

Then when the Balfour Declaration was made, one of the authors of the Balfour

Declaration and a Member of the War Cabinet, General Smuts, before the new immigration started after the War, made a declaration, “I have no doubt in my mind that, although I may not live to see the day when the whole of Israel will return to Palestine, yet more and more it will become the national home of the Jewish people. From those parts of the world where the Jews are oppressed and unhappy, where they are not welcomed by the rest of the Christian population, from those parts of the world you will yet see an ever-increasing stream of immigrants to Palestine.” That was said in 1919.

The stronger we get, the greater our community becomes in Palestine, the greater our colonization work, the more developed our scientific institutions become, the more will be recognized by our neighbors abroad and here the blessing of our work and the mutual interest which exists historically between the Jewish people which is returning to its country, returning with the tradition of European culture, with the blessing of European culture

I know the Arabs, at least some of them, don’t want us to return and I understand but it is natural.

We are returning to our country as of right. It is your wish that this land, too, should be Arab. Perhaps it is a natural desire. Many of you prefer a poor Arab country to a prosperous Jewish country. That does you honor, but we are not strangers to this land. It always has been and remains forever a historic hamlet. History has decreed that we should return to our country and re-establish here a Jewish State, and a Jewish State will be established. Many of you know it as well as we.

The return of the Jews to their country is a work of self-liberation and self-reconstruction, which is contributing to the reconstruction and liberation of the country as a whole.

The Balfour Declaration was not the first of its kind, just as this is not our first return. After the destruction of our first commonwealth by the Assyrians and

Babylonians, the Persian King Cyrus the Great in the year 538 B.C. made the first “Balfour Declaration”, as we are told in the Book of Ezra:

Towards the fulfillment of a national restoration Zionists reckon, not without reason, on the migration of millions of Jews to Palestine. However Jewry may be divided in opinion as to the shape which that restoration should take, there is little doubt that, given freedom to return and possess land under their own laws, Jews would resort to Palestine in sufficient number to form a nation.

The Jews do not want to stay where they are. They want to regain their human dignity, their homeland, they want a reunion with their kin in Palestine after having lost their dearest relatives. To them, the countries of their birth are a graveyard of their people. They do not wish tothere and they cannot. They want to go back to their national home.

A Homeland and Statehood! A Homeland, where a Jew can return freely as of right. Statehood, where he can be master of his awn destiny. These two things are possible here’, and here only. the Jewish people cannot give up, cannot renounce these two fundamental rights, whatever may happen.

There was only one cure he could prescribe for his dispersed people: to return and settle in the Land of Israel.

It is from these sources that archaeologists and historians derive their basic knowledge. Often Jews, reading in distant lands the story of the country and its historic places, have reconstructed in their imagination forgotten episodes from bygone happy days. As in a vision the ancient places would become real to them, and they would be seized with an ardent yearning to make the ascent to the Land of Israel and kiss its soil.

From the days of Daniel during the Babylonian Exile the present day —that is to say a period of 2,300 years-every Jew saying his prayer has turned his face towards Jerusalem. Three times a day, in the course of his religious devotions he stressed the connection between himself and his ancient home, praying for

the return of his exiled people. The hope of a revival of Jewish independence in this historic land was the corner-stone of his faith. It was an essential of his spiritual life.

In our view it is the duty of every Jew to come and live in Palestine; and any regulation restricting the fulfilment of this commandment is not only devoid of legal authority, but positively sinful. This land was once ours and by the grace of Heaven it will be ours again and a new Jewish Commonwealth will arise in it. No power in the world can stop us from returning to this our land.

return Palestine, which, for the Jewish people, has always been and will always remain the land of Israel, was in the course of centuries conquered and invaded by many alien peoples, but none of them ever identified its national faith with Palestine. The Jewish nation in Palestine is rooted not only in past history but in a great living work of reconstruction and rebuilding, both of a country and of a people.

We are not here on the strength of the Balfour Declaration or the Palestine Mandate. We were here long before. I myself was here before. Many thousands were here before me, but we were here long long before that. The Mandatory Power is here on the strength of the Mandate speaking legally from the legal point of view. Our case, and I think you will meet many such cases now in Europe, our case is that of one who builds a house for his family to live there who was expelled forcibly and the house was given to somebody else. It changed hands and then the owner comes back and wants to get his house again. In many cases the Jew is being kept out, it is occupied by somebody else. To make it more exact I will say it this way. It is a large building, our building, of say 150 rooms. We were expelled from that house, our family was scattered, somebody else took it away and again It changed hands many times and then we had to come back and we found some five rooms are occupied by other people, the other rooms from neglect are destroyed and uninhabitable. We said

to these occupants we do not want to remove you, please stay where you are, we are going back to these uninhabitable rooms, we will repair them, and we did repair some of them and settled there. Then some other members of the family are coming back and they want to repair some other uninhabitable rooms, but then these occupants say “no, we are here, we do not want you; we do not live in them, these rooms are no good for any human beings but we do not want you to repair them, to make them better”, and again we do not say to them “leave, it is ours.” We say “ return You stay, you are there but from yesterday, you may stay please and we will help you to repair your rooms too if you want; if not you can do it yourself”. (at the American Committee of Inquiry Jerusalem, Palestine 11th March 1946

The conflict between us today is the most tragic for it is in a way a family conflict. But it will not last long. The work of our generation, we shall carry out even if the obstacles in our path increase, for it is to us a matter of life and death. We are returning to our country as of right. It is your wish that this land, too, should be Arab. Perhaps it is a natural desire. Many of you prefer a poor Arab country to a prosperous Jewish country. That does you honor, but we are not strangers to this land. It always has been and remains forever a historic hamlet. return History has decreed that we should return to our country and re-establish here a Jewish State, and a Jewish State will be established. Many of you know it as well as we.(Public Hearings before the Anglo American Committee of Inquiry Jerusalem, Palestine 11th March 1946

The acceptance of partition does not commit us to renounce Transjordan; one does not demand from anybody to give up his vision. We shall accept a state in the boundaries fixed today, but the boundaries of Zionist aspirations are the concern of the Jewish people and no external factor will be able to limit them.

In the name of the Jewish people, I say to you: Even though you are still opposing us, we want you to know that you have not throughout the entire

world a more loyal and useful friend than the Jewish people. We will build our country on the foundations of Jewish prosperity and peace. The closer and more quickly we draw together, the better it will be both for us and for you. the Jewish people and the Arab people need each other in the fashioning of their future as free peoples in this part of the world.Public Hearings before the Anglo American Committee of Inquiry Jerusalem, Palestine 11th March 1946

We are convinced with the revival of the Jewish State on the one hand and independent Arab unity on the other, we shall be able to cooperate closely in a spirit of mutual aid, in a true covenant of brothers. (Public Hearings before the Anglo American Committee of Inquiry Jerusalem, Palestine 11th March 1946)

I will speak in terms of commonsense and of history. I say we are here as of right and I believe all those people, first of all the British people and then other European nations and the United States of America, which endorsed the action of Great Britain, for them too, the Jewish National Home was an end in itself. It was not in order that the Jews should benefit Palestine, but it was to solve the Jewish problem. It was to remove a grievance, a historical grievance of the Jewish people against the whole Christian world for many centuries. (at the Peel Commission – 1937)

The first is this-Palestine is the only country in the world that the Jews, not as individuals but as a nation, as a race, can regard as their own country, as their historic homeland, and the second reason is there is no other nation I do not say population, I do not say sections of a people, return there is no other race or nation as a whole which regards this country as their only homeland. (at the Peel Commission – 1937)

The debate has not been for or against the indivisibility of Eretz Israel. No Zionist can forgo the smallest portion of Eretz Israel. The debate was over which of two routes would lead quicker to the common goal.

We were expelled from that house, our family was scattered, somebody else took it away and again It changed hands many times and then we had to come

back and we found some five rooms are occupied by other people, the other rooms from neglect are destroyed and uninhabitable. return We said to these occupants we do not want to remove you, please stay where you are, we are going back to these uninhabitable rooms, we will repair them, and we did repair some of them and settled there. Then some other members of the family are coming back and they want to repair some other uninhabitable rooms, but then these occupants say “no, we are here, we do not want you; we do not live in them, these rooms are no good for any human beings but we do not want you to repair them, to make them better”, and again we do not say to them “leave, it is ours.” We say “You stay, you are there but from yesterday, you may stay please and we will help you to repair your rooms too if you want; if not you can do it yourself. (at the the Anglo American Committee of Inquiry in Jerusalem, Palestine, 11th March 1946)

If you mean to ask why we want to come to Palestine, I have told you it is because we are coming back to our country. (at the the Anglo American Committee of Inquiry in Jerusalem, Palestine, 11th March 1946)

In Arab history there is no such thing as Palestine. Arab history was made in Arabia, Syria, Persia and in Spain and North Africa. You will not find Palestine in that history, nor was Arab history made in Palestine. There is not only however an Arab history; there is a world history and a Jewish history and in that history there is a country, by name Judea or as we call it Eretz Israel, the Land of Israel. We have called it Israel since the days of Joshua the son of Nun. There was such a country in history, there was and it is still there. It is a little country, a very little country, but that little country made a very deep impression on world history and on our history because return this country made us a people; our people made this country. No other people in the world made this country; this country made no other people in the world.(at the Anglo – American Committee of Inquiry March 1, 1946)

Jews are coming to Palestine because it is our country, it has been our homeland for 3,500 years. We are here on the basis of the fact that it is the country of our people; return we were dispossessed by force and we did not give it up. We are coming back to our home. As soon as a Jew comes into contact with this country he begins to feel as if he has return returned. No obstacle should be put in the way of the return of the Jews to Palestine.(United Nations Special Committee on Palestine – 1947)
I know that there is not another example in history of a people returning to its land after 1800 years,
Then the Lord God will return thy captivity, and have compassion upon thee, and will return and gather thee from all the nations, whither the Lord thy God hath scattered thee…And the Lord they God will bring thee into the land which thy fathers possessed, and thou shall possess it”
Zionists” were members of a movement that sought a return to “Zion” so that we could once again become a normal, independent people, rooted in its homeland, like most if not all other peoples.